

# THE TOP 15 ALBUMS OF 2000

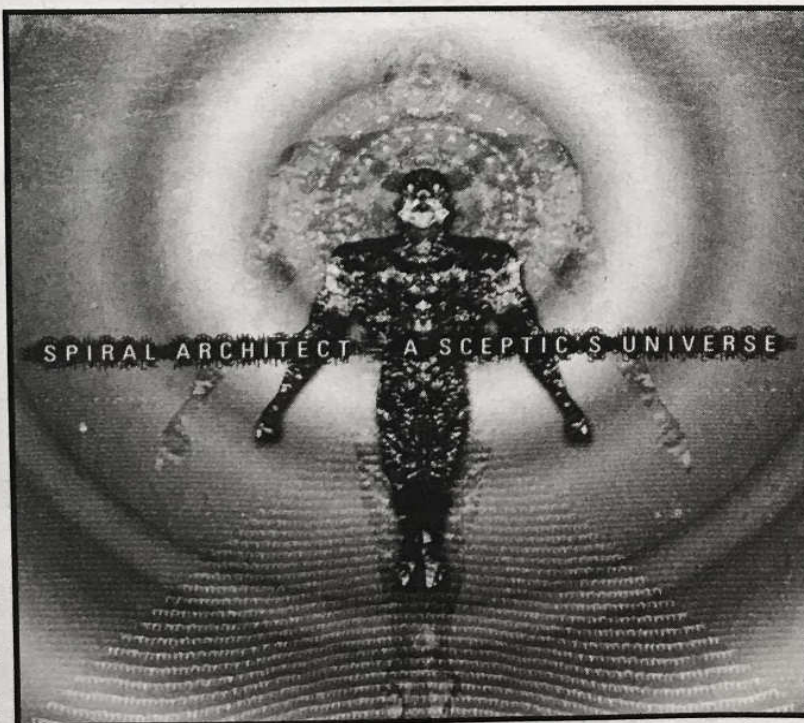
continued

## Matt Johnsen

1. **Spiral Architect**, *A Sceptic's Universe*
2. **Martyr**, *Warp Zone*
3. **Sonata Arctica**, *Ecliptica*
4. **Mystic Force**, *Man Vs. Machine*
5. **Twilight Kingdom**, *Adze*
6. **Soilwork**, *The Chainheart Machine*
7. **Ark**, *Ark*
8. **Symphony X**, *V*
9. **Avalon**, *Eurasia*
10. **Angel Dust**, *Enlighten The Darkness*
11. **Theory In Practice**, *The Armageddon Theories*
12. **Vanden Plas**, *Far Off Grace*
13. **Nocturnal Rites**, *Afterlife*
14. **Jesters Funeral**, *QuickSilverLight*
15. **Madsworld**, *The Global Village*

Power metal may officially be the rage these days, but aside from a few standout releases, most of the purely melodic offerings put before us this year were just pointless rehashes of the brilliant music you could have heard five or six years ago if you knew where to look. The progressive musicians with their eyes to the future were the ones who really made things happen in 2000, and excepting a few

very skilled copycats, the bands that impressed me most were the ones who refused to rest on the laurels of their success or others', opting instead to make metal that challenges and inspires. It's also worth noting that six of my 15 favorites this year were released on very small independent labels, which means the best is still hard to find. In 2001 I'm looking forward to the Prog Power festival in Chicago ([www.progpowers.com](http://www.progpowers.com)) and anything new from Andre Matos (ex-Viper/-Angra). (MJ)



## Borivoj Krgin

1. **H.I.M.**, *Razorblade Romance*
2. **Nocturnal Rites**, *Afterlife*
3. **Guano Apes**, *Don't Give Me Names*
4. **Nevermore**, *Dead Heart In A Dead World*
5. **Stuck Mojo**, *Declaration Of A Headhunter*
6. **Full Devil Jacket**, *Full Devil Jacket*
7. **In Flames**, *Clayman*
8. **Taproot**, *Gift*
9. **Cold**, *13 Ways To Bleed On Stage*
10. **Earthtone 9**, *Arc'tan'gent*
11. **Mudvayne**, *L.D. 50*
12. **Spineshank**, *The Height Of Callousness*
13. **Gardenian**, *Sindustries*
14. **Sinergy**, *To Hell And Back*
15. **Spiritual Beggars**, *Ad Astra*

All in all, 2000 was the year when the so-called "pimprock" movement blew up in a big way—much to the dismay of most "true" metalheads, while the much-anticipated power metal "revival" turned out to be nothing but a long overdue bout of nostalgia—at times a painfully nauseating one—for most of us that are old enough to remember the "good ol' days." The barriers were further broken down by many of the newer genre-bending acts, while the purists continued to slam anything that was considered too adventurous for its own good—essentially perpetuating the same old discussion that has been going on for years. Look for 2001 to signal the end of the major label pimprock signing spree and the beginning of a "down" period for the heavy music in general—one that occurs in cycles every four-five years or so—with only the cream-of-the-crop new bands managing to survive the genre's inevitable decline in fortunes. (BK)

## Ron Strauss

(Beyond his top 10, Ron just couldn't decide...)

1. **Nile**, *Black Seeds Of Vengeance*
2. **Soulfly**, *Primitive*
3. **The Haunted**, *The Haunted Made Me Do It*
4. **In Flames**, *Clayman*
5. **Tourniquet**, *Microscopic View Of A Telescopic Realm*
6. **Halford**, *Resurrection*
7. **Transport League**, *Satanic Panic*
8. **Rotten Sound**, *Still Psycho*
9. **Snapcase**, *Designs For Automotion*
10. **The Anasazi**, *Calculating Components And Compound Formulas For Mass Population Reconstruction*

Deadbodieseverywhere, Dying Fetus, Usurper, Tourniquet, Vader, Deicide, The Quiet Room, Cannibal Corpse, Six Feet Under, Unleashed Power, Dio, Immolation, Exhumed, White Skull, Cradle Of Filth, Entombed, Crematory, Annihilator, Nile, Mortician, Serpent Obscene, Alice Cooper, Soulfly, Halford, Primal Fear, Children Of Bodom, Stuck Mojo, Herbert, U.D.O., COC, Hammerfall, Gorgoroth, S.O.D., Pro-Pain, Slipknot, Mortification, Substance D, Shutdown, Cause For Alarm, Indecision, Neurosis, The Ravenous, In Extremo, Destruction, Savatage, Pantera, Witchery, The Sins Of Thy Beloved, Kamelot, Labyrinth, Lizzy Borden, Fates Warning, King Diamond, Flotsam And Jetsam, Iron Maiden, Voivod, Manowar, Nevermore: Can't wait 'til next year. (RS)